Filing

URBAN DISTRICT OF STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

for the year

1957

R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
(*Medical Officer of Health*).

H. MADDOCK, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
(*Public Health Inspector*).

URBAN DISTRICT OF STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the work of the

P U B L I C H E A L T H D E P A R T M E N T

for the year

1 9 5 7.

R.W.Markham, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
(Medical Officer of Health).

H.Maddock, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
(Public Health Inspector).

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Mr.J.W.Bullock.
Vice-Chairman: Mr.R.F.Abbotts.

Members of the Council:

Mr.W.J.Ariss
Mr.D.A.Evans
Mr.G.T.P.Gregory
Mr.T.J.Higgins
Mr.P.N.Higgs
Mr.W.A.Coley, J.P.
Mr.S.James.
Mr.A.J.Millington B.A.
Mrs.F.Pratt
Mr.R.G.Ready
Mr.E.A.Robinson
Mr.A.J.Seabright
Mr.G.T.Southall

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:
Dr.R.W.Markham, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:
Mr.H.Maddock, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

Public Health Clerk:
Mrs.I.M.Mann.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1957.

The report is divided into the following sections:-

"A" Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

"B" General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

"C" Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

"D" Housing.

"E" Inspection and Supervision of Food.

"F" Prevelance of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Main Occupations of the Area.

The principal industries of the area comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, sheet steel, chains for many purposes, wire, cable fans, forges, furnaces, timber production, electric transformers, a tannery and a vinegar works.

In addition there are:-

(a) Three large Oil Companies engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil.

(b) One company engaged in the bulk storage and distribution of imported timber.

All the timber and the majority of the petrol and oil arrives by boat from Avonmouth, Stourport-on-Severn being the head of the portion of the River Severn which is navigable by commercial traffic. There is also one of the largest Power Stations in the Midlands

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30141990

SECTION "A".

AREA IN ACRES 3218

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1957) 3694
according to rate books (estimated)

RATEABLE VALUE £111,660

SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE £463

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT 11,020
POPULATION (mid 1957)

LIVE BIRTHS.

	MALE	FEMALE.	TOTALS. 1957	1956.
LEGITIMATE	90	92	182	159
ILLEGITIMATE	5	3	8	10
	95	95	190	169

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population for the Urban District was 17.2 15.5

THE BIRTH RATE for England and Wales for the same period was 16.1 15.7

STILL BIRTHS.	Male	Female	1957	1956.
LEGITIMATE	-	3	3	2
ILLEGITIMATE	1	-	1	3
	1	3	4	3

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total live and still births was 21.05

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total live and still births for England and Wales for the same period was 22.40

DEATHS.

	MALE.	FEMALE.	1957.	1956.
Total Deaths	51	46	97	98
THE DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population was			8.8	9.0
THE DEATH RATE for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was			11.5	11.7
MATERNITY MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 births (live and still) was			Nil	Nil
MATERNITY MORTALITY RATE for England and Wales for the same period was			0.47	0.56

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.	MALE.	FEMALE.	1957.	1956.
LEGITIMATE.	1	1	2	3
ILLEGITIMATE.	-	-	-	-
	1	1	2	3

NEONATAL MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under four weeks number 1 representing a rate of 5.3 per 1,000 live births.

The deaths of infants under four weeks in England and Wales during 1957 represented a rate of 16.5 per 1,000 related live births.

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

1 Male Pneumonia and Prematurity (5 days).
1 Female Extensive Congested Spinal Meningocele.

	1957.	1956.
The Infant Mortality Rate for the year was	26.3	17.7
The Infant Mortality Rate for the same period for England and Wales was	23.0	23.8

	Male.	Female.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil	Nil

Ref. No.	CAUSES OF DEATH (including transferable deaths)	Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other.	1	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	-	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	6	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	4	12
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina.	9	8
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease.	-	2
20.	Other Heart Disease.	13	6
21.	Other Circulatory Disease.	-	2
23.	Pneumonia.	1	2
24.	Bronchitis.	-	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	2	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	1
31.	Congenital Malformations.	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	7	1
35.	Suicide.	1	-

SECTION 'B'.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Services.

Producer samples of milk and water are examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological and pathological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service.

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals.

All hospitals are administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committee. The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding area with maternity beds.

Cases admitted during the year	486
Women delivered..	394
Infants born alive	391
Infants deaths	3
Infants stillborn	3
Maternal deaths	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	12
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil

Infectious Diseases.

Beds for infectious diseases are provided at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen, but no cases from Stourport-on-Severn were admitted during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Out-patient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary where Dr.Cronin attends on Tuesday evenings, Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. In-patients' treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium and St.Wulstan's Sanatorium, Malvern. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment and 'follow-up' are carried out at the following:-

Kidderminster & District General Hospital
Worcester Royal Infirmary.
Other neighbouring hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home.

The service is administered by the Local Health Authority.

There are:-

1. Three nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.

2. (a) Stourport excluding Wilden and Burlish.

A whole time Health Visitor and School Nurse who attends school medical inspections, treats minor ailments at the school clinic and visits cases of mental defect. She visits infants and children in the home and is responsible for their welfare from 14 days until they attend school at 5 years, when she continues to supervise under the school scheme. She attends all Infant Welfare Clinics in this district.

(b) Wilden and Burlish.

A whole time Health Visitor whose duties are shared with the adjoining area of Kidderminster, who supervises the Burlish area and Wilden including the school clinic and also attends the Infant Welfare Clinic at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital.

3. A whole time Health Visitor who visits cases of Tuberculosis.

Clinics.

(a) Ante-Natal.

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, in the charge of Doctors MacArthur, C.Mackie, Winter, Black, W.T Mackie and Matron respectively. A clinic is also held by the District Midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

(b) Infant Welfare.

(i) Lucy Baldwin held first and third Fridays in the month.

(ii) Wilden held third Wednesday in the month.

(iii) Areley Kings held in the Parish Hall, Areley Kings on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon. (In the charge of Dr.Winter).

Children under five are immunised at these clinics and vaccination is carried out as required.

SECTION 'C'.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The majority of dwellings in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of supply is deep bore belonging to Bewdley Corporation, the storage resevoirs are situated at Mount Pleasant.

Samples taken regularly from the general mains for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination have proved to be satisfactory.

To cater for the needs of residents in the Wilden Top area the Council have agreed to erect a Booster Station on land adjoining the Mortuary. It is hoped that this will be in commission in the early part of 1958 and that no more complaints will be received regarding lack of water pressure in this area.

Further mains extensions were carried out in Chesshire Avenue and Galahad Way to cater for new private housing development.

Drainage and Sewage.

Disposal of sewage at the Oldington Disposal Works used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley has continued satisfactorily.

Further extensions were made to main sewers at Chesshire Avenue, Bewdley Road and Kylemilne Way to cater for new private housing development.

SECTION 'D'.

HOUSING.

103 Houses (including flats) were completed by the Council during the year and 69 by private enterprise.

Number of Council houses in the Urban District... ...	1193
Number of hutted dwellings requisitioned by Council ...	89
Number of houses requisitioned by Council	Nil
Number of applicants for Council houses... ... ... (Plus 87 at Burlish)	237
Number of above applicants who are living in lodgings	113
Approximate total number of persons represented by application list.	650

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation in the district, 3 Closing Orders were made.

Number of families rehoused from condemned properties - 12

Burlish Estate.

At the end of the year 77 converted bungalows were still inhabited, the majority of them by families of Polish origin.

It is pleasing to report that the Council have agreed to rehouse these families and that permanent houses are under construction at the time of writing this report.

Titton Shack Area.

The future use of this area has been discussed again many times in Committee but no concrete policy has yet been decided upon.

Walshes Farm Areas.

(a) The Council's Camping Site.

This site is used for both tents and caravans during the Summer season and extensively during the August holiday fortnight. It is felt that the sanitary facilities provided there are no longer adequate if this site is to continue to be used at its present level. The Council should consider installing water borne sanitation.

(b) Haywood's Meadow.

This site is occupied by approximately 150 holiday caravans, bungalows and similar structures and during

the August holiday a large number of tents occupy the recreation area of the field.

The sanitary facilities provided have been augmented and are now considered adequate for the caravan and bungalow dwellers but there are no additional facilities made available for tent dwellers.

Houseboats.

During the past year no nuisance has arisen from the occupation of the houseboats in the Canal Basins.

SECTION 'E'.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Ice Cream Manufacture.

The number of manufacturers of ice cream on the Register is 5, and the number of retailers of ice cream is 47. Regular samples have been taken from all the manufacturers and these have proved satisfactory.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning have occurred during the year in this Urban District.

Adulteration of Foods.

Mr.Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that the following samples were taken during the year:-

Milk samples taken	21
Miscellaneous samples taken	34
Drug samples taken	Nil

All the milk samples taken were satisfactory.

Two of the miscellaneous samples were reported against, both being fruit squashes from one manucafturer, the labelling of which suggested they were pure fruit juices which, of course, was not so. The manufacturer, not local, was told of this and altered the labels.

In addition to the above samples, 236 samples of milk were taken at a dairy in Bewdley which retails a large amount of milk in Stourport Urban District. 35 of these samples were reported against, 25 in respect of low fat content and 10 in respect of low solids-not-fat content. All but one of those samples reported against were attributable to natural causes. The one contained less than 1% of extraneous water, this being in one churn only out of a consignment of six churns.

SECTION 'F'.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at clinics, schools or by General Practitioners, was as follows:-

Pre-School Children	130
School Children	22
Reinforcing Doses	153

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

A large number of children have had their names registered for inoculation against poliomyelitis, but up to the end of the year the supplies of vaccine have been extremely limited.

Total number of children immunised during the year 7

General.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:-

Diseases	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	371	-	-
Whooping Cough	25	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	2	-	-
Tuberculosis	7	6	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year:-

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	7	1	-	-	1	1	-	-

Mass Radiography Service.

The Dudley Mobile Unit visited the Stourport and district area during October, 2,530 cases were examined and three new possibly active cases were discovered. 20 other patients showing abnormalities were referred for action as necessary.

B.C.G. Inoculations.

The County Council scheme for the testing and inoculation of susceptible children in their thirteenth year continued satisfactorily and the following are the figures for the year:-

Number of consents for testing and inoculation ...	223
Percentage	87.1%
Number tested	222
Result Positive	39
Result Negative	182
Percentage Positive	17.5%
Vaccinated	179

CONCLUSION.

The supply of water to the higher areas of the town remains a problem although it is hoped that the booster pump to be installed for the Wilden and Lower Heath areas will help in this respect. The Council will be well advised to take specialist advice on the supply of water to the town in general especially in view of the continued housing development in the Areley Kings area.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

The weekly collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year except for one or two occasions when shortage of staff through sickness etc. made this impossible, and certain of the outlying areas experienced a fortnightly collection.

The completion of a further 110 Radburn type houses on the Walshes Farm Estate made further demands on this service and despite a statement made in a national journal that this type of development facilitates refuse collection, in practice we have found that in many cases this is not so, in fact quite the reverse.

With the type of Radburn development on the Walshes Estate the majority of the bins in each quadrangle are in the furthermost corners, accessible only by a narrow passage which in places does not allow two refuse collectors with bins to pass, thereby causing delay.

The law relating to the responsibility for the provision of dustbins at tenanted properties still remains the same and arguments still rage as to who should provide this bin, and therefore, we still see a motley collection of receptacles used for the storage of refuse, such as an old dolly tub, oil drums and old gas or electric boilers, and as in my last annual report I must emphasise the most satisfactory way under present legislation of ensuring that approved type bins are used, is for the local authority to provide bins where necessary and make an annual charge up to 7s.6d. per year.

The Shelvoke and Drewry vehicles used for collection continue to give satisfactory service, but through age and constant use the body of the small side loader began to deteriorate rapidly and the Council have agreed to replace this vehicle on April the 1st 1958 with a Fore and Aft tipping vehicle similar to the one in use at the present time.

There were only two changes in personnel during the year and in general the collectors carry out their duties in all kinds of weather in a satisfactory manner. Certain members of the general public are inclined to think that the life of a refuse collector is relatively easy,

and to look down on the man carrying on this most essential public service, but I am sure that one day alongside one of these crews would be sufficient to silence them for ever.

Trade Refuse.

The collection of trade refuse is carried out weekly on request and the following charges are made:-

One bin empties weekly	Free
All other bins	20s/- per half year per bin.

Certain tradespeople still prefer to take their refuse to the Council's tip by their own transport and in these cases a tipping charge of 2s/6d. per load or part load is made.

Refuse Disposal.

The Council's Tip on land adjoining Hartlebury Common which has been in use since 1939 was closed for tipping on 31st January and tipping was commenced in the Bonemill Quarry.

During the past two years I have spent a considerable amount of time endeavouring to obtain a suitable site for the disposal of refuse, and many hours have been spent in discussion and negotiations with various interested bodies, and I am convinced that the new site, situated away from the built up areas but situated on a main road, is the best that could be obtained in the district.

With the continued extraction of the sand it will be many years before the problem of finding another site will have to be faced again.

Tipping was commenced on the eastern boundary of the site adjoining the canal, and it is hoped to continue at that point for some five years from the commencement before entering into the main quarry area.

During the Summer months the open face of the tip is sprayed daily with insecticide to control flies, and covering material is applied as soon as possible so that only the minimum amount of refuse is left uncovered to form a breeding ground.

By far the greatest nuisance is caused by unauthorised persons entering on to the tip during the evenings and weekends, sorting over the refuse, stealing scrap metal and rags and frequently setting fire to the refuse. These fires, when discovered, have usually penetrated well into the tip and the work of putting them out usually takes a considerable time and means the opening of a new tip face elsewhere on the site. The help of the police has been enlisted to help deal with this matter but up to the end of the year the culprits had not been caught.

SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Waste Paper.

A separate collection of waste paper and cardboard is made from shops and factories throughout the district and special collections are made where necessary. Salvage from householders is collected at the same time as the refuse bins are emptied.

In August 1957 we were informed by the Birmingham Waste Company Limited that due to a decline in demand from the mills they could not continue to collect our waste paper. However, we were fortunate in that Messrs. J. Ainsworth & Co.(Bolton)Ltd.agreed to purchase our baled waste paper, and right up to the end of the year we were able to dispose of all that we could collect and bale.

Although we shall never again experience a shortage of waste paper, which at one time caused the price of mixed waste paper to rise to £25 per ton, I am hopeful that we have now found a steady outlet for our salvage.

Scrap Metal.

There was, throughout, the year, a good demand for scrap metal of all types. The price for scrap tins increased to £5 per ton, this figure being made up of £4.5s.0d. payable by the merchant and 15s/- by the Midland Area Scrap Survey Committee.

The figure of 65 tons mentioned in the annual report for 1956 as the figure we hoped to achieve in the ensuing year was not achieved solely due to the fact that the 'spare' man was employed considerably more on the collection of refuse than on the sorting of salvage at the tip.

Details of Salvaged Material Sold During 1957.

	1957 Weight.			1957 Amount Realised.			1956 Amount.		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	82	14	1	590	18	10	471	12	10
Container Waste	10	6	3	82	14	-	99	18	6
Jacquards	1	10	1	4	10	9	-	-	-
Cast Iron	16	8	-	134	11	9	58	19	10
Steel		10	2	3	3	-	13	5	-
Light Scrap	1	10	2	6	17	3	-	-	-
Tins	30	16	2	133	10	10	25	3	6
Rags, String, etc.				1	8	6	3	6	6
Brass, Copper & Lead				-	-	-	16	13	9
				£957	14	11	£688	19	11

Cleansing of Pail Closets and Cesspools.

Pail closets are emptied weekly and cesspools on request free of charge from houses. Trade premises are charged at the rate of £1 per hour or under annual contract.

The largest number of pails are in the Lower Heath area and there seems little liklihood of any noticeable reduction in numbers in this area in the near future, although one or two premises on Power Station Road have been equipped with water sanitation emptying into septic tanks.

In addition to work inside the district, the vehicle has been employed in the Martley and Kidderminster Rural Districts and in the Borough of Bewdley.

Details of Revenue from Private Work.

Chargeable work outside the district ...	£81. 5s. 0d.
" " inside the district ...	£86.10s. 0d.

Outdoor Staff Employed on Public Cleansing.

2 Refuse Freighter Driver/Loaders.
1 Driver (Salvage etc.)
7 Refuse Loaders.
2 Tip Men (1 part time)
1 Salvage Baler.
1 Gulley/Cesspool Emptier Driver.
1 Gulley/Cesspool Emptier Attendant.

RODENT CONTROL.

The destruction of rats and mice has been dealt with efficiently through the year by the Council's Rodent Operative. Dwellinghouses are treated free of charge and business premises are charged on a time plus materials basis or under annual contract. During 1957 the Council had five shops and three factories under contract amounting to £80.

A test of the Council's sewers throughout the district was carried out in October and minor infestations were found on the Walshes Estate and at Burlish. Treatment was carried out to deal with these infestations.

The Council's Refuse Tip and Sewage Pumping Stations were given regular attention.

Summary of Work Carried out during 1957.

Type of Premises.	Number of Treatments.
Local Authority's Property	11
Agricultural	11
Business Premises	24
Dwellinghouses	592

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Despite the fact that the Public Lavatories on the Severn Meadows have been in use for two Summer seasons, it is a fact that on fine Sundays during the Summer season, and during holidays, queues can still be seen at the Bridge Street Conveniences, while at the same time the lavatories on the Severn Meadows are being relatively little used.

We again had our share of damage to structure and fittings at Bridge Street, and I regret to say the hooligans responsible again went unreprimanded. One cannot help feeling that someone at sometime has seen these acts of vandalism but has not been public spirited enough to report the matter to the police.

As indicated in my last annual report the western bank of the river was increasingly used by visitors and the Council must now consider the necessity for further sanitary accommodation on that side of the river.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

It can be seen from the table below that the heaviest deposits of grit are occurring in Sandy Lane, Titton and in Power Station Road and it is fairly obvious that the Central Electricity Authority Power Station is responsible for this.

The deposit in Power Station Road was particularly heavy and was entirely due to the fly ash from the pulverised fuel plant of the new 'B' station. Many complaints were received from residents in the neighbourhood following which I made a number of visits to the Power Station.

The boilers in the new station are equipped with Electrostatic Precipitators and there is no doubt that the Station Engineer and his staff do all in their power with the equipment available to prevent any nuisance.

At one time manufacturing engineers were called in to advise on the problem, but at the end of the year sporadic outbursts were still occurring intimating that all was not satisfactory.

The chimneys of the Enamelware Factory in Baldwin Road continued to be the subject of complaint until the end of June when the Factory closed down completely. To me this is a most unsatisfactory way of mitigating a nuisance as I feel sure that modern equipment installed in place of the old furnaces, attended by trained operators would have achieved the same result.

The whole of the provision of the Clean Air Act 1956 will come into force during the Summer of 1958, when the law regarding the emission of dark smoke will be extended to private dwellings. It would appear that an all out effort is to be made to minimise the emission of smoke from all chimneys, and it is a great pity that similar attention is not being paid to smoke and fumes emitted from the exhausts of Diesel powered vehicles. Very often I have been enveloped in these fumes from vehicles passing along Bridge Street, usually heavily laden with sugar beet.

Grit Deposit Gauges.

Total solid matter in the atmosphere expressed in tons per square mile.

	1. Areley Kings.	2. Power Station Road.	3. Titton Sands Farm.	4. Wyre Mill Pumping Station.	5. Minster Rd. Cold Store.	5. Council House Garden.
March	7.02	-	24.10	6.82	11.04	14.52
April	13.58	-	20.45	12.21	10.21	11.11
May	18.45	-	17.58	14.07	12.84	28.63
June	35.79	-	21.69	10.04	16.83	21.96
July	23.11	-	23.04	14.30	21.72	17.91
August	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	128.13	16.92	14.65	15.01	9.07
October	-	509.03	27.21	8.94	15.35	11.12
November	-	10.08	31.20	15.93	7.48	5.53
December	-	39.65	17.55	9.76	15.93	16.58
Averages	19.59	171.72	22.16	11.86	21.82	15.16

HOUSING.

The new Acts of Parliament affecting housing reached the statute book during 1957. They were:-

(1) Housing Act 1957.
(2) Rent Act 1957.

The first mentioned repeals and re-enacts in consolidated form the provisions of earlier Acts except the financial provision. The Rent Act finally became law after a very stormy passage through the House. Under this Act landlords may increase rents up to prescribed limited, and if the tenant is of the opinion that the premises are in disrepair he must list the defects on the prescribed form and serve it on the landlord. If, within six weeks, the work is not carried out, or the tenant does not receive an undertaking from the landlord to do the necessary work within six months, the tenant can apply to the Local Authority for a 'Certificate of Disrepair'. It is with the issue of these certificates that the Public Health Department is primarily concerned. The following are details of the number of applications received up to the 31st December, 1957:-

No. of Applications received	15
No. of Applications approved by Local Authority.	15
No. of Undertakings received from owners	14
No. of Certificates actually issued. ...	1

From personal observation it would appear that many tenants who have received a notice of increase, and have good grounds for applying for a Certificate of Disrepair, with particular reference to external decoration, have not done so and one can only assume that they have accepted the increase as inevitable or that the business of filling in the statutory forms is too much trouble.

Many of these properties have not been painted for over twenty years and the result of this policy is decaying woodwork and corroded and defective gutters.

Remedy of Defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices.

Number of Dwellinghouses at which defects were remedied - 15.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(3)	Number of Undertakings not to relet accepted	1
(4)	Number of houses demolished following Statutory action...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied following formal notices... ...	4

(c) Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936 (Clearance Areas).

The Mitton Street Clearance Order was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 11th February, 1957. All the occupants were rehoused between April and June, but by the end of the year this property had not been demolished. The Council, however, are considering the acquisition of this site with a view to the erection of old persons' dwellings.

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS EFFECTED FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY OR STATUTORY ACTION.

Structural Repairs	2
Roof Repairs	8
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	1
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	2
Windows or doors repaired	2
Dampness remedied	1
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	4
Sinks repaired	6
New sinks provided	-
W.C.Pans renewed	4
W.C. fittings repaired or renewed	4
W.C. structures repaired	2
Burst pipes repaired	1
Drains unblocked and cleansed	12
Drains repaired or ventilated	3
New drainage system installed	2
Public sewers unblocked and cleansed	44
Houses disinfested	1
Houses disinfected	3
Pail closets converted	1
New dustbins provided - after notice	15
New dustbins provided - by Council on request	37

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

1. Food Hygiene.

It was not found possible to carry out regular inspection of all food premises in this district. However, visits were made whenever possible and it was noticeable that in most cases occupiers of food premises are ready and willing to co-operate in achieving satisfactory standards of food hygiene.

Three preliminary notices were served where contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, and in all three cases the necessary work was put in hand wuickly.

During a visit made to the fairground on Severn Meadows in August it was noted that the food stalls selling open food were not provided with wash hand basins, a hot water supply or soap and towels, following which I informed the proprietor of the fair that in future action will be taken against any stallholder contravening these regulations.

There are many portable combined heating and storage units for hot water specially made for itinerant vendors and I see no reason why these people should not be equipped to comply with the law as the occupiers of permanent premises in the town do.

2. Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering is carried on at two licensed premises in this district, one in Lombard Street and the other in Manor Road. Regular visits to inspect meat are still made on Sundays and on two evenings per week.

The meat produced is of excellent quality, as indeed, is most of the meat retailed in this town. By far the greatest quantity of meat sold is still imported from other areas.

In August we received copies of the proposed regulations governing slaughterhouse construction, layout and equipment and to prevent cruelty. All new buildings will have to comply with the new law immediately and all existing premises at later dates.

As indicated in my last annual report, one slaughterhouse in the town will require extensive alterations to comply with the new regulations, and in particular the introduction of a stunning pen in the slaughterhall will be most difficult.

Animals Inspected.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
NUMBER KILLED.	84	Nil	10	1020	516	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED.	65	Nil	8	782	437	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI.						
Whole Carcase Condemned.	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	11	Nil	Nil	11	16	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	16.92	Nil	Nil	1.39	3.66	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole Carcase Condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.61	Nil	Nil	Nil	.23	Nil
CYSTICEROCIS.						

3. Other Food.

Twenty-two visits were made to premises to inspect food thought to be unfit for human consumption. The following articles were condemned:-

Canned Fruit	92 tins.
" Vegetables	29 "
" Tomatoes	79 "
" Fish	23 "
" Meat	35 "
" Milk	28 "
" Soup	3 "
" Whole Chicken	3 "
" Shrimps	1 "
" Cooked Ham	3 "
" Tomato Juice	1 "
" Creamed Rice	2 "
Potted Meat	3 jars
Jam	2 jars
Bacon	25 lbs
Tongue	6 lbs
Jellied Veal	18 lbs
Canned Pork	27-lbs 3-ozs.
Corned Beef	90-lbs 12-ozs.

All food condemned as unfit for human consumption was removed and disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse tip.

4. Milk Supply.

Number of Registered Distributers	7

Licences granted.

Dealer Licences:-	
Tuberculin Tested	6
Pasteurised	6
Sterilised	7
Supplementary Licences:-	
Tuberculin Tested	4
Pasteurised	4
Sterilised	4

5. Ice Cream.

Number of Manufacturers on Register.	5
Number of Retailers on Register	47

DETAILS OF SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

	Provisional Grade.			
Total Samples.	I	II	III	IV.
4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

Of the five registered manufacturers only two are actually making ice cream. One uses the complete cold mix and the other the hot mix method.

The number of retailers of prepared ice cream increased by one during the year.

In addition to the sale from shop premises there are three itinerant vendors who regularly tour the district. One is a manufacturer registered with an adjoining authority, one is a van belonging to a large firm of notable repute and the other vendor retails prepared ice cream purchased from another of the large manufacturers.

6. Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 16.

Registration of premises used for the manufacture of prepared foods:-

Number on register... ... 7

DETAILS OF TYPES OF FOOD MANUFACTURED.

No. of premises.	Food Manufactured.
1	Sausage, cooked meats and meat pies.
1	Sausage only.
3	Sausage and pickled tongues.
1	Meat pickling.
1	Cooked Ham only.

Number of inspections made ... 6

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA.

Type of Business.	No.
Works Canteens	9
Restaurant Kitchens	9
School Kitchens	3
Bakehouses	3
Bakery and Confectionery	7
Grocers and Provision Merchants	15
General Food Shops	25
Sweet Shops	7
Greengrocers	3
Greengrocers and Fish Shops	3
Butchers Shops	10
Cooked Meats	2
Fish Friers	5
Licensed Premises (including Clubs and Off-Lincences)	44
Snack Bars	4
Mobile Canteens	2
Mobile Fish Friers	1

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are two persons lincensed under the above Act to keep a Pet Shop.

C A N A L B O A T S.

The canal is now only used by cabin cruisers belonging to private hire firms.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES.

Number of enquiries made 3
Number of rooms disinfected 3

Disinfectant is provided free to the occupiers of any house where a case of infectious disease has occurred. Rooms are disinfected where necessary or on request.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936 carried out in this district.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES.

There are in this district three licensed sites in addition to the site administered by the Authority. These three sites are now

occupied by some one hundred and fifty vans of various types and in addition all the remaining space on one of the sites adjoining the River Severn is almost completely taken up by tents during the August fortnight.

All the sites now have a piped water supply, two have water sanitation and the remaining one is provided with chemical sanitation.

It was found necessary to require the owner of one site to provide additional bins of approved type for the storage of refuse in place of a number of unsatisfactory bucket type containers, and to require the regular cleansing of the sanitary accommodation.

With reference to the Council's camping site; during the August holiday it is necessary to empty the pail closets twice daily, and in my opinion it is time that additional works were carried out on the site to provide water sanitation in lieu of the pail closets which are never very satisfactory. In addition a ring road round the site would facilitate the emptying of refuse bins. This work would be a great step forward in making the site an example for others to follow, which I am afraid is not the case at the present time.

Less trouble than in previous years was experienced by travelling scrap metal dealers, although on one or two occasions it was found necessary ro deal firmly with odd cases on the Burlish Estate.

WATER SUPPLY.

Private Supplies.

The people who depend upon shallow wells for their water supply mostly occupy the shacks, caravans or bungalows in the Lower Heaths and Severnside areas. Many of the permanent caravan dwellers in Lower Heath still obtain their water from these sources despite the fact that a main piped supply is available to them.

Six samples of water taken from wells in the Lower Heath area were submitted for bacteriological examination, four being found to be unfit for drinking. Repeat samples in three cases were found to be satisfactory and in the other case the occupier of the property concerned was warned to boil all water before use.

Mains Supply.

Seven samples of water from the main supply were submitted for bacteriological examination one of which was found to be contaminated. This was a sample taken from the main feed from the Burlish Storage Tank.

This tank was eventually taken out of service, thoroughly cleansed, following which a repeat sample showed the water to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Total number of Factories on Register	52
Factories with Mechanical Power	49
Factories with no Mechanical Power	3

The following is a summary of inspections made during the year with details of defects found and remedied:-

Total number of inspections - 28

Sanitary Conveniences.	Defects Found.	Defects Remedied.
(a) Insufficient	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-
(d) Other offences.	-	-

Section 34.

Two Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire were issued.

Outworkers.

There is one person in the town employed on the manufacture of gloves.

REGISTER OF FACTORIES (31st December, 1957).

Manufacture of Agricultural Implements	1
Blacksmith	1
Builders Yard	3
Battery Reconstruction	1
Builders	2
Chaff Cutters	1
Carpet Manufacturers	1
Civil Engineers	1
Engineers	1
Food Manufacturers	9
Gravel Pits	2
Gas Works	1
Manufacture of Enamelware	1
Manufacture of Chains	1
Milliner	1
Manufacture of Wood Articles	1
Manufacture of Ceramic Insulators	1
Manufacture of Electrical Components	3

Making of Lock Gates	1
Motor and Motor Cycle Engineers	4
Joinery	1
Concrete Blocks	1
Boat Building	1
Power Plant	1
Petrol Depots	2
Repair of Canal Boats	1
Steel Rolling Mill	1
Tannery	1
Timber Merchants	4
Vinegar Works	1
Wire Manufacturers	1
	52

SUMMARY OF ALL NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices.

Public Health Act 1936	38
Housing Act 1936	1
Food and Drugs Act	3
Factories Act 1937	1
Prevention of Damage by Pest Act	3
	46

Statutory Notices.

Public Health Act 1936 Section 93	1
Public Health Act 1936 Section 45	1
	2

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS - 1957.

Houses let in lodgings	2
Housing Act - inspection on complaint	9
Housing Act - Routine	46
Public Health Act - on complaint	119
Public Health Act - Routine	179
Re-visits - Housing Act	74
" Public Health Act	132
" Others	19
Work in Progress	37
Infectious Disease Enquiries	3
Food Shops - General	42
Food Preparation Premises	6
Bakehouses	4
Restaurant & Canteen Kitchens	12
Licensed Premises	12
Ice Cream Dealers	3
" " Manufacturers	4
Itinerant Vendors	13
Fish Friers	1
Milk Distributors	1
Shops (Shops Act).	1
Factories - Mechanical Power	27
Factories - No Mechanical Power	1
Caravan Sites	25
Controlled Tip	155
Stables	2
Piggeries	2
Public Conveniences	150
Survey for Infestation (P.D.P.A.1949) Business Premises	16
Survey for Infestation (P.D.P.D.1949) L.A.Property	2
Survey for Infestation (P.D.P.A.1949) Dwellinghouses	38
Survey for Infestation (P.D.P.A.1949) Agricultural Property	2
Smoke Observations	34
Miscellaneous Inspections and Visits	349
Visits to Inspect food	47
Slaughterhouses - Meat Inspections	156
" Routine	21
Boilor Installations	3
Rent Act 1957	22
Total Inspections	1771

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. MADDOCK

Public Health Inspector.